

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** December 8, 2004  
**TO:** Commission on EMS  
**FROM:** Richard E. Watson  
Interim Director

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Graillat  
Communications Dispatch Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Communications Update

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive information on EMS Communications activities.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact anticipated

**DISCUSSION:**

The EMS Authority is continuing a grant project with the Office of Traffic Safety to develop a template for a local EMS Communications System Plan. The template, which is based on a communications system project in Imperial County, will be incorporated into the State EMS Communications Plan. As was reported during the March Commission meeting, due to the increasing complexity of the grant project, the EMS Authority was given a four-year extension to September 30, 2007, to complete the project.

On November 2–3, 2004, the Communications Dispatch Coordinator and the Grant Project Consultant conducted a site visit and received communications training in Imperial County. The site visit was made to “Slab City,” a type of squatters’ camp near Niland, which lacks any utilities or infrastructure and presents a significant challenge to EMS communications and delivery of services. The training was part of a train-the-trainer series that the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA) is requiring for all participants in the new communications system to attend. The training will serve as the basis for the training portion of the local EMS communications systems template.

The Communications Dispatch Coordinator is also assisting in the establishment of an EMS Workgroup under the California State Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC) formed to facilitate interoperable state, local, and federal public safety communications in California. CalSIEC was convened in October 2003 by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services at the request of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Additional meetings were held in April, June, and August 2004.

Other workgroups have been established to address specific communications areas, such as wireless data transmission and data sharing.

The EMS Workgroup is working on the EMS Section of the Statewide Interoperability Plan and will work with CalSIEC and its relevant workgroups, the existing Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee, the statewide Ambulance Strike Team, and the newly created Communications Committee of the Emergency Medical Services Administrators' Association (EMSAAC). The State EMS Communications Plan will incorporate relevant portions of the State EMS Plan and the EMS Section of the Interoperability Plan.